

Testimony to Appropriations Comm. for the March 2, 2015 Public Hearing on Hatchery Funding in DEEP budget

I am a semi-professional fly fishing guide working on the Naugatuck River. I have seen the Atlantic salmon fishery grow in popularity by leaps and bounds, especially in the past few years. There are more anglers fishing for salmon in Connecticut than ever. About half of my clients come from out of state to fish (mainly NYC and surrounding area). Aside from their fishing license fee and my guide fee, they spend money locally on flies, fishing equipment, food and gasoline. It would be a shame to see the Kensington hatchery close down. The broodstock Atlantic salmon fishery is the only Atlantic salmon fishery left in New England.

Sincerely,

Ben Bilello
148 Old Blue Hills Rd.
Durham, CT 06422

www.benbilello.com/salmonflies